

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) Device for treating at least one surface of an object, the device having a first input for receiving objects coming from a loader for containing a plurality of such objects, a second input, distinct from the first input, for receiving objects supplied individually by a user of the device, an operating chain including a succession of operating stations each being arranged for carrying out an action on a surface of said object, said operating chain having an input for receiving objects from the first and second inputs of the device, the first and second inputs of the device being situated on both sides of said operating chain, the device including a router for routing to the input of said operating chain an object introduced into the device through its second input.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) Treatment device according to claim 1, further including a programming arrangement for previously inhibiting or enabling the action that at least one operating station is capable of carrying out.

4. (Previously presented) Treatment device according to claim 1, wherein the operating chain includes a drive for moving the objects from its input to an output of said operating chain, said drive being capable of being configured in a reverse working mode in which the drive can move the objects from the output to the input of the operating chain, and the second input of the device being disposed so it faces said output of the operating chain, the router including by said drive configured in a reverse working mode.

5. (Previously presented) Treatment device according to claim 1, wherein the loader includes a first wall for preventing motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, and a second wall for preventing motion of said objects in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second walls having ends which are separated by an opening arranged so it can be passed through by an object, at least part of said second wall of the loader being movable, the treatment device including a drive for controlling movement of said movable part of the second wall for enabling adjustment of the size of said opening.

6. (Previously presented) A treatment device according to claim 1, wherein the loader includes a first wall for preventing motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, and second wall for preventing motion of said objects in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second walls having ends which are separated by an opening arranged so it can be passed through by an object, the loader including a slider block for moving along the second wall in the first direction under the effect of a force produced by an elastic element, the objects contained in the loader being disposed between said slider block and the first wall, the loader also including a regulator for maintaining substantially constant the force exerted on the object contained in the loader which is closest to the first wall.

7. (Previously presented) Treatment device according to claim 6, wherein the regulator includes a spring disposed parallel to the second direction and connected to a first and a second articulation respectively arranged between first and second rods, on the one hand, and third and fourth rods, on the other hand, ends of the first and second rods being connected by hinge joints to first and second guide channels respectively arranged in the loader and the slider block, and ends of the third and fourth rods being connected by hinge joints to fixed points respectively arranged in the loader and the slider block.

8. (Previously presented) Treatment device according to claim 1, wherein the loader

includes a first wall for preventing motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, the device also including a spacer for movement in the first direction that the object contained in the loader which is closest to the first wall for moving it away from said first wall for forming, between said object and said first wall, a storage space for at least partially receiving an object coming from the operating chain.

9.-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) Treatment device according to claim 3, wherein the operating chain includes a drive for moving the objects from its input to an output of said operating chain, said drive capable of being configured in a reverse working mode in which the objects can be moved from the output to the input of the operating chain, and the second input of the device facing said output of the operating chain, the router including said drive configured in reverse working mode.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) Treatment device according to claim 3, wherein the loader includes a first wall for preventing motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, and a second wall for preventing motion of said objects in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second walls having ends which are separated by an opening arranged to be passed through by an object, at least part of said second wall of the loader being movable, the treatment device including a drive for controlling movement of said movable part of the second wall for adjusting the size of said opening.

14. (Previously presented) Treatment device according to claim 4, wherein the loader includes a first wall for preventing motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, and second wall for preventing motion of said objects in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second walls having ends which are

separated by an opening arranged to be passed through by an object, at least part of said second wall of the loader being movable, the treatment device including a drive for controlling movement of said movable part of the second wall for enabling adjustment of the size of said opening.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously presented) A treatment device according to claim 3, wherein the loader includes a first wall for preventing motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, and second wall for preventing motion of said objects in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second walls having ends which are separated by an opening arranged so it can be passed through by an object, the loader including a slider block for moving along the second wall in the first direction under the effect of a force produced by an elastic element, the objects contained in the loader being disposed between said slider block and the first wall, the loader also including a regulator for maintaining substantially constant the force exerted on the object contained in the loader which is closest to the first wall.

17. (Previously presented) A treatment device according to claim 4, wherein the loader includes a first wall for preventing motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, and second wall for preventing motion of said objects in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the first and second walls having ends which are separated by an opening arranged so it can be passed through by an object, the loader including a slider block for moving along the second wall in the first direction under the effect of a force produced by an elastic element, the objects contained in the loader being disposed between said slider block and the first wall, the loader also including a regulator for maintaining substantially constant the force exerted on the object contained in the loader which is closest to the first wall.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously presented) Treatment device according to claim 3, wherein the loader includes a first wall for preventing motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, the device also including a spacer for movement in the first direction that the object contained in the loader which is closest to the first wall for moving it away from said first wall for forming, between said object and said first wall, a storage space for at least partially receiving an object coming from the operating chain.

20. (Previously presented) Treatment device according to claim 4, wherein the loader includes a first wall for preventing motion in a first direction of the objects contained in the loader, the device also including a spacer for movement in the first direction that the object contained in the loader which is closest to the first wall for moving it away from said first wall for forming, between said object and said first wall, a storage space for at least partially receiving an object coming from the operating chain.

21. (Previously presented) Treatment device according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the operating stations includes a magnetic strip encoder for applying a magnetic strip to the surface of said object.

22. (Previously presented) Treatment device according to claim 1 wherein at least one of the operating stations includes a printer for applying a printed strip to the surface of said object.

23. (New) The device of claim 1 wherein a first of the stations is arranged for applying first indicia to a surface of the object and a second of the stations is arranged for applying second indicia to a surface of the object.

24. (New) The device of claim 23 wherein the first and second stations are arranged to apply the indicia to first and second opposite sides of the object.

25. (New) The device of claim 24 wherein the first and second stations are respectively arranged for applying first and second types of indicia to the first and second surfaces of the object.

26. (New) The device of claim 25 wherein the first and second indicia types are respectively printing and magnetic flux.

27. (New) The device of claim 23 wherein the first and second indicia are respectively printing and magnetic flux.